

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary    Public

**Date:** 11/15/2013

**GAIN Report Number:** RO1331

## Romania

**Post:** Bucharest

### **Romanian Parliament votes for openness towards Biotechnology**

**Report Categories:**

Biotechnology - GE Plants and Animals  
Biotechnology and Other New Production  
Technologies

**Approved By:**

Michael Henney, Agricultural Attaché

**Prepared By:**

Monica Dobrescu, Agricultural Specialist

**Report Highlights:**

In September 2013, the Chamber of Deputies voted against the proposal to place an interdiction on cultivation, import, and marketing of products enhanced through biotechnology. In May 2013, the Romanian Senate had rejected the proposed draft law.

**General Information:**

In September 2013, the Chamber of Deputies debated the proposal to impose a moratorium on the import, market, and cultivation of bio-engineered products and products containing ingredients enhanced through biotechnology. Two thirds of the members (248) opposed the draft out of the total attending the plenary, ending the draft decree route.

In June 2013, according to the legal procedure, members of the Committee for Agriculture from the Chamber of Deputies, had analyzed the draft and concluded that such a law would create a parallel legal framework to the existing EU-derived legislation. Moreover, that would have been in contradiction with the obligations assumed by Romania at the time of joining the European Union. Members of this Committee voted unanimously against the proposal.

The lower Chamber vote followed the negative vote from the Upper Chamber, Senate, which rejected the draft law in May 2013. If approved, such a measure would have seriously affected the domestic livestock industry, since Romania imports annually significant quantities of soybean and soybean meal in order to cover its feeding needs in animal production. Total soybeans and soya meal imports grew during the first 10 months of Marketing Year 2013 (October 2012 – July 2013) by 4 percent compared to the previous year, reaching 486,000 MT (\$284 million). The major suppliers remain the large biotech producing countries, Brazil, Argentina followed by the United States. Ukraine and Moldova Republic increased their soybeans exports on the Romanian market in the past year.

**Related reports:** [RO1308 - Romania Proposes to Prohibit Import and Cultivation of Biotech](#)  
[RO1317 - Romanian Senate rejects Proposal to Prohibit Biotech Products](#)